

Fourth letter from the ADA Trustee to the NYSDA Components – January 2024  
Trustee's Corner

Happy New Year to all of you and your families. It is my sincerest hope everyone enjoyed the holiday season. As we embark upon a new year, I wish all of you a healthy and successful 2024. It is a new year for your American Dental Association with many interesting things occurring in Chicago, as well as around the country.

In October, the ADA announced a new organization in collaboration with the Forsyth Institute. The new entity is now the ADA Forsyth Institute. It will dramatically change the oral health research arena with cutting edge transformative research. Ultimately, this will lead to more advanced care in the clinical care of dentistry, which will directly improve our patient's overall health. Through biological research, local and global public health outreach along with technological innovation, the ADA Forsyth Institute will set the standard for dental research around the world. The ADA Seal Program will eventually grow to investigate a much larger number of products to evaluate and decide which dental commodities deserve their approval. Elyse Cherry JD, board chair of the Forsyth Institute, gave a presentation on the organization to the ADA Board of Trustees at the October Board meeting. She discussed a storied list of accomplishments, as well as the historical background of Forsyth, which dates back more than one hundred years. The location of the new ADA Forsyth Institute will be in Somerville, Massachusetts.

I had the distinct honor of representing the ADA as a delegate at the most recent Federation Dentaire International (FDI) annual meeting last September in Sydney, Australia. The FDI World Dental Congress met and decided many of the pressing issues that deal with global oral health. Although the FDI is a small organization with headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, it represents more than one hundred National Dental Organizations and close to one hundred countries. I have come to learn they are involved in many collaborations in the global oral health community. New policy statements on Collaboration between Oral Health Professionals and other Health Professionals, Mental Health for Oral Health Professionals and Dental Students, Tooth Wear and Alcohol as a Risk for Oral Health were decided upon. Revision of existing policy statements on Alternative Restorative Materials to Dental Amalgam, Perinatal and Infant Oral Health Care, Social and Commercial Determinants of Oral Health and Oral Health for Healthy Aging were debated and agreed upon.

The FDI is overseeing more than twenty in depth studies on research areas such as access to oral health care through primary care, the effects of free sugar on oral health and overall health, antibiotic resistance in dentistry, artificial intelligence and dental applications, consensus project on toothbrushing methods, digital cleft care and electronic health records. After many discussions to strengthen the draft of the World Health Organization's Global Oral Health Plan (2023-2030), the revised version was incorporated with many FDI recommendations in the final language. What I have learned is the FDI punches above their weight and the ADA is an integral part of their success.

After a full year of existence, the Strategic Forecasting Committee is rounding into shape. As a committee of the House of Delegates, the SFC ~~is completing~~ seated its new members following the House vote, has completed selections for the subcommittees and the action groups. The SFC has approved the Vision and Mission statements of the American Dental Association, which will be placed before the 2024 House of Delegates for final adoption. ~~and Work~~ is now beginning to assess the value of each of the existing 171 programs at the ADA, as measured against current priorities. ~~The discussions begin at~~ Discussions are also ongoing within the Action groups on a variety of critical topics. The information and opinions gathered, are forwarded to the ~~subcommittees~~ Subcommittees at the regional level and finally ends up at the Strategic Forecasting Committee. Any new revelations or ideas that occur in the profession will also be studied by groups that are skilled in those areas.

The Board of Trustees will take the SFC value-based recommendations of ADA programs and use them when preparing the budget and finances of the ADA. This will be done on a quarterly basis instead of annually. This correlates with mission-based accounting and making decisions on a real time basis. The ADA feels decisions made in a timelier manner will make our organization more effective and financially stable. If you are called to be on an Action group or a Subcommittee, please take us up on it and be involved in important discussions with our organization.

At my last edition of the Trustee's Corner, I mentioned the California Board of Governors decided to recalibrate and put the idea of optional ADA tripartite membership on pause. The California House of Delegates met in the middle of November and did not bring up the issue. My hope is with all the new changes happening at our ADA, there will not be any reason for California to take this issue up again. As we all know, the ADA and

our profession are stronger together with the tripartite including the entire country, speaking as one for our members and the patients we serve.

I have been honored to serve as your Trustee the past year and I look forward to serving you the next three years. It has been a tremendously rewarding experience and I would like to thank all of you for the opportunity. I wish everyone a happy and successful 2024. Please contact me at 716-510-3217 if you have any questions concerning the ADA or if you need to talk about our profession in any way.

Sincerely, Brendan

Brendan Dowd DDS  
Second District Trustee